

The Committee of Fifteen

Incorporated

Purpose "To aid the public authorities in the
enforcement of all laws against pande-
ring and to take measures calcu-
lated to suppress the
White Slave
Traffic."



CHARTER GRANTED BY THE STATE OF
ILLINOIS, MAY 3rd, 1911.

Annual Report

OF

The Committee of Fifteen.

(INCORPORATED)

FEW PEOPLE in Chicago realize the importance of the work being conducted by **The Committee of Fifteen**. Outside of Chicago, however, the effective results obtained by this Committee are widely known.

While the men who now compose this group, began a practical campaign against "White Slavery" three years ago, the name was not legally adopted till May 3rd, 1911, when **The Committee of Fifteen** obtained its charter.

To overcome the lethargy—the deep seated aversion that most men feel to anything new sounding or out of the ordinary—has been the Committee's hardest task. **A Fact** is a **Fact** however, and finally the **Reality** of "White Slavery" has been admitted by all. It exists as a hard, grim, uncompromising **Reality**—a **Fact** that the citizens of Chicago, (where the practice is particularly vicious) can no longer doubt.

After allowing a most substantial discount for all the sensationalism and hysteria of impractical theorists, there is yet remaining the undeniable fact that the traffic in girls has reached alarming proportions.

And Furthermore—

Connected with the actual procuring and harboring of the victims are frequently brought to light practices which, if called to the attention of any man above the level of the beast, would cause him to take a hand in the fight just as an expression of his American manhood.

The Committee deliberated for some time before making

public, these further statements owing to a strong desire to avoid all appearance of sensationalism.

But, in justice to these wretched victims, practices so utterly **Vile, Brutal and Debased** ought to be given the searchlight of the strongest publicity.

Therefore, When this Committee states that young girls, on being taken to immoral houses, are frequently stripped of all their own clothing and apparel of a showy and shameful character is substituted and that they are brutally beaten if they refuse to obey the commands of their captors—it does so in the hope that the **truth** may arouse a **public conscience** to aid in the work of prosecuting these **traffickers in vice**.

Further, When this Committee is compelled to admit that the new victims in these houses are frequently subjected to **acts of degeneracy** so low that nothing further can be imagined and that the purpose and effect of these practices are so quickly and utterly to deprave the victim and so destroy all sense of morality that she will **never want to return** to a life of decency—it does so in the belief that **knowledge of actual conditions** will stimulate an activity that will **wipe out this social blot**.

Statistics taken in scores of cities within the past two years prove that the **demand** for girls in places of ill repute is far in excess of the number who enter voluntarily.

These statistics further show that this **demand** is **supplied** by men and women, the most debased of all exploiters, who have created a regular business of procuring, selling and harboring young girls for lives of shame.

In fact, the procuring of girls has become such a vital part of the whole problem of commercialized vice, that the Vice Commission of Chicago in its report, makes this recommendation: *"Separate the male exploiter from the problem and you abate its flagrant outward expression; minimize its extent, and deprive it of the great commercial gain now being enjoyed by its promoters."*

The white slave traffic presents the most vulnerable spot at which the whole evil can be effectively attacked.

Prosecute and convict the procurers and the supply is cut down.

This Committee **does not** claim that all unfortunate girls are the victims of these procurers,

But it does claim

That a large proportion, other than those who enter disreputable lives from congenital and economic causes, are victims of the commercial traffickers in girls.

And further—

The members of this Committee most emphatically believe in the constancy, virtue and inherent goodness of the average girl no matter what may be her birth and station or the temptations thrown in her way. And it is for this very reason that the Committee believes—actually knows—that keepers of disorderly resorts are forced to secure, through agents, young girls who are in most cases too decent to willingly enter immoral places.

Procurers find their victims, quite frequently, by lurking around places where girls congregate. Amusement parks, skating rinks, public dance halls, nickel theatres, excursion boats, factories and stores are haunted by the panders and procurers. These traders in women's souls travel from city to city and through country communities.

Therefore to cope with the procurers more advantageously the **Committee of Fifteen** has become affiliated with the **American Vigilance Association** a national organization conducting a practical and systematic campaign against the traffic in girls and women.

This Chicago Committee is incorporated "*to aid the public authorities in the enforcement of all laws against pandering and to take measures calculated to suppress the white slave traffic.*" Through the larger Association local efficiency is increased, for confidential and direct communication is thereby established with cities having committees likewise affiliated with the American Vigilance Association. The machinery of this Association includes among its many departments, a library containing statistics, books, pamphlets and records concerning white slavery and a bureau of information; also a staff of investigators and lawyers who will co-operate with the local committees in

apprehending and convicting procurers traveling from place to place.

Through its national affiliation and its complete local equipment, with its special prosecuting attorney to try cases; carefully trained investigators to collect evidence and three plain clothes detectives who are specially detailed to this work by the City of Chicago, the **Committee of Fifteen** is rendering the people of Chicago a distinct service.

The large number of convictions during the past few years indicate the willingness of judges and jurors to impose upon these traders in girls the penalty of the law.

It is this class of men and women, their **agents** and their "hangers on," their **system** and their **crimes**, that this Committee with the aid of the decent men and women of Chicago proposes to overthrow.

The **Committee of Fifteen** wishes to enlist every citizen in this work so that it may be brought to a successful termination as speedily as possible. The Committee is grateful to the newspapers of Chicago for their hearty co-operation and only asks that they will continue to warn the public by calling attention to the cases and convictions.

The following report is intended to show how effectively and aggressively the work of the Committee is accomplishing the extermination of these exploiters of human souls.

AMUSEMENT PARKS AND SKATING RINKS.

The following cases illustrate the methods used by the procurers who are there constantly on the lookout for girls.

People vs Inez Jackson and Fred Firey.

These two cases involve three girls who came to Chicago from Nekoosa, Wisconsin, in April, 1911, to find employment. One of them, Minnie Brown, 18 years of age, was employed as seamstress in Forest Park; her sister, Margaret, 16 years of age, was employed as a domestic, and

their cousin, Carmen Henkel, found a position with the Western Electric Company.

Inez Jackson was the keeper of a high class assignation flat at 3625 Ellis Park in a good residential section. Fred Firey was one of her agents for procuring girls, and for this purpose she supplied him with money and an automobile.

Firey became acquainted with Minnie Brown at Forest Park, and took her for a joy ride and then persuaded her to stay with him at the Jackson flat. She was an inmate there for five weeks and testified that she was never permitted to leave the place except in the company of Inez or Fred Firey. On two occasions she was stripped and beaten for slight infractions of the so-called rules of the house. The flat was patronized by men of means and Inez Jackson's profits amounted to several hundred dollars per week.

Carmen was later procured to become an inmate of the same place and was there when the flat was raided. Margaret Brown was procured by Firey to become an inmate of the resort at 14 South Paulina Street.

Witnesses from Nekoosa, Wisconsin, testified that these three girls had received the ordinary training of village girls before coming to Chicago, and that they were members of the church and of the village choir.

Firey and Inez Jackson were each given the maximum sentence and fine and the girls were sent back home. Letters received from the girls and their friends indicate that they appreciate what was done for them and that they are making every effort to redeem themselves.

People vs. Lee Proctor.

Marie ————— was a sixteen year old girl living at 3306 North Sacramento Avenue and found her principal recreation at the skating rink at Riverview Park. She became one of the most skillful fancy skaters of the park and was proud of the accomplishment.

Lee Proctor was the keeper of an assignation flat at No. 2730 Wabash Avenue in the Ridgewood Apartment Build-

ing. She had several agents bringing in girls and one of them became acquainted with Marie at Riverview Park. He had an automobile furnished by Lee Proctor and spent money lavishly before taking Marie to the flat. His method was to keep the girl out so late at night that she got into trouble with her parents and when the home relations were badly strained he took her up to Lee Proctor as a "boarder." She became an inmate and remained there for nine weeks before the flat was raided. During the first few weeks she was compelled to submit to practices of the most degenerate and unnatural character and the effects of this treatment made such an impression upon her mind that it is doubtful if she will ever regain a respectable standard of morals.

Lee Proctor was indicted by the grand jury for harboring a girl under age and her case is pending for trial. The chauffeur who took Marie to the flat pleaded guilty of the charge and is serving a term in the Bridewell.

The Ridgewood Building contained forty-two assignation flats and had a national reputation. As a result of this prosecution the mayor ordered all of the occupants to move and the building has been entirely rid of prostitutes since March 1st.

DANCE HALLS AND WINE ROOMS.

More girls are procured from the dance halls and concert rooms with saloons attached than from any other single source. Very few of the halls are under proper regulation and they are constantly frequented by procurers. The following cases show the methods used in these places.

People vs. Ray Walsh.

The defendant here was the oldest son of a very respectable family in Austin, but his familiarity with Chicago's red light district sent him to the Bridewell.

He became acquainted with Bessie ————— a very pretty working girl who lived on the West Side near his father's factory. At first he spent considerable money on her for clothes and entertained her at the dance halls and

wine rooms. He introduced her to several of his friends, and finally organized a party to visit a resort at 2034 Armour Avenue where he was acquainted with the Madame and most of the girls.

At the trial Bessie testified that her own clothes were taken from her on the pretense of dressing her up like the "other dolls" and that she stayed there with Ray that night. She was kept there for five days until found by the officers. Walsh was convicted and sent to the Bridewell and the house was closed.

People vs. Charles Pathke.

Lillian ———, was the seventeen year old daughter of a coat maker, living at 1635 Austin Avenue. She frequently visited a concert hall on West Monroe Street, where she met Charles Pathke who was a waiter and attendant there. She testified that he took her riding in an automobile and took her to dinners at different cafes and finally sent her to a resort at 822 West Madison Street to talk with a girl friend and with the Madame. Both of them tried in every way to persuade her to remain there and she told them that she "would have to see Charley." Later by his inducement she became an inmate there and gave him money for five or six weeks. The place was raided and closed and the girl taken to her parents. Pathka was convicted and sentenced to serve six months and fined \$300.

NICKEL THEATRES.

The danger of the cheap theatres which are scattered all through the city is not so much in the character of the play or performance that is given, as in the kind of young men who are employed there in the capacity of ushers, stage attendants and actors. The stories told by many girls prove that these young men make a practice of enticing girls away from home and then lure them to dens of vice.

People vs. John Reed.

John Reed was head usher at the Crown Theatre on Milwaukee Avenue, one of the largest amusement houses

on the Northwest side where hundreds of honest working girls find the only recreation within their means. There was little doubt from the evidence that he was an experienced procurer, but in this particular case he was obliged to marry the girl in order to get her in his power.

Ella ————— worked at Wiebolt's department store as saleswoman and often went to the Crown Theatre in the evening. Reed became acquainted with her and showed her every attention for several months. He finally persuaded her to marry him, and shortly after that, placed her in a resort at 2115 Dearborn Street, where she earned and gave to him about \$250.00. Reed was arrested in a pool hall where he was spending the girl's money, and upon trial and conviction he was given the maximum sentence of one year's imprisonment and \$1,000.00 fine.

People vs. Jud Landran.

Annie ——— was a fifteen year old girl, employed as a switchboard operator. She was well dressed and attractive.

On her "day off" each week she attended the performances at the Marlowe Theatre, 6254 Stewart Avenue. There she became acquainted with Jud. Landran who was employed at the theatre, sometimes as usher and sometimes as attendant. He told her that she was attractive and talented and that he could put her upon the stage. Finally he took her to the Alhambra Hotel where two days later he was arrested on a charge of rape and was subsequently indicted by the grand jury in the Criminal Court, where his case is now pending for trial.

ASSIGNATION HOTELS.

The ease with which a young girl can be taken to a down town hotel by a man much older than herself and can there be registered as man and wife, constitutes one of the greatest evils of the city. More than a score of girls in the past year have told our officers that they took their

first downward step in this manner. The following cases are typical.

People vs. James Tracey.

Bernice ————— was a fifteen year old girl living in Oak Park with her father and mother, who were very respectable people. Her testimony showed that she had been allowed to associate with girls much older than herself, who probably had had immoral experiences. They introduced her to James Tracey who wrote letters to her and made appointments with her to come into the city and meet him.

After several such clandestine meetings he took her to the Quincy Hotel and was arrested a few days later upon the girl's complaint. He pleaded guilty to a charge of rape and was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary at Joliet.

People vs. Thomas Newbold.

Newbold is the proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, a five-story transient house at No. 22 East Van Buren Street, near State. This was formerly the Cecil House, and for years had a national reputation among the sporting classes. It was known as one of the highest class assignation houses in the city.

The principal witness at the trial was Jane Moore, a girl sixteen years of age, who testified that she had been taken to the hotel by a man much older than herself, and that they were registered as man and wife. They went there at two o'clock in the afternoon and stayed until 8 o'clock the next morning. During this time another man besides the one who was registered was permitted by the clerk to be in the room for several hours.

Another girl testified that she had been taken to a room in the hotel where the proprietor and several of his guests smoked opium. Other testimony revealed that couples constantly frequented the place without baggage and that on one occasion 22 persons were taken out of there and

convicted on a charge of being inmates of a disorderly house.

The testimony of many girls who have become ensnared in the White Slave Traffic, reveals that their first step was taken at some such hotel as this and a successful crusade against these transient houses will mean that the traffic is being dealt a severe blow at a very vulnerable spot.

MARRIAGE.

It seems almost incredible that the marriage ceremony or a promise of marriage should be used by procurers to get possession of young girls, but many of the cases in court reveal that this method is often used to get a decent girl to enter an immoral life.

People vs. Phil Friedman.

Rose ———, seventeen years old, lived with her parents on South Carpenter Street, and was employed in one of the downtown department stores as cashier. Phil Friedman was a procurer for the resort located at 2004 South Dearborn Street and became acquainted with Rose in the store.

After several weeks acquaintance, he persuaded her to go to Crown Point, Indiana, to marry him there, in order to avoid the Illinois Statute concerning the age of consent. He brought her back and lived with her at 3428 Indiana Avenue for a few weeks before placing her in a resort. As soon as an investigation was started on this case, a collection was taken up in the Red Light District to get Friedman out of town. He was sent to Buffalo, where he was arrested and brought back for trial. Judge Dicker said it was the most flagrant case that had come to his attention and gave him the maximum sentence.

People vs. Walter Irving—alias Reardy.

Hannah ——— was a nurse maid nineteen years of age in one of the best families on the Northwest side of the City. She became acquainted with Walter Irving at Wil-

son Avenue Bathing Beach while she was there attending the baby placed in her care.

Irving flirted with her and finally, upon his promise of marriage, she went with him to the Revere House on North Clark Street and lived with him there for a week as his wife. He took her to the Clark Street Dock, telling her that they would take the midnight boat for Green Bay, and then deserted her, leaving her homeless and without money. She appealed for aid to the Catholic Woman's League and they brought the case to our office for investigation. Irving was arrested and brought to trial on a charge of abduction. It required three days to try the case and the jury found the defendant guilty after one hour's deliberation. The fact that it was necessary for the State to prove the previous chaste character of the girl, shows that procurers are preying upon some of the most decent girls who frequent these places of recreation.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM GIRLS AND PARENTS.

Denver, May 13, 1912, Monday Evening.

Mr. Carl Waldron,

Dear Sir:

Am awfully sorry I did not write to you sooner as I promised I would as soon as I reached Denver.

I did not get a chance to extend my thanks to you for what you and the Judge did for me in Chicago, and I certainly send a thousand thanks.

Please give my regards to the Chief Matron at the Annex and to Mr. Russell also.

Will close with my best wishes to all of you.

I remain as ever,

Irene Spaid.

Detroit, May 15, 1912.

Mr. Carl Waldron,
1017 Fort Dearborn Bldg., Chicago.

My Dear Sir:

I take the opportunity of sending you a few lines telling you we arrived home O. K.

You know how frightened we were but we got a welcome reception at home and our people were pleased more than words can tell.

Thanking you for your kindness towards us,

Very truly yours,

Florence Sullivan,
Mildred Fulier.

Waterloo, Nebraska, Feb. 28, 1912.

Mr. Carl Waldron,
Chicago.

Kind Sir:

My daughter arrived safe Tuesday night and I was surprised to hear that Mr. Chandler had done her such a wrong as she had always spoken so highly of him.

I cannot thank you enough for taking such an interest in her behalf and for punishing the man who ruined her life.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. E. J. McClintock.

Dubuque, Iowa, July 28, 1911.

Mr. Carl Waldron,

My dear sir:

Just these few lines to inform you that I am well and arrived safe and thank you very much for your kindness and I am very happy. Papa and Myrtle were at the train to meet me and they were all glad to see me and I got along nicely.

I have so many letters to write that you will have to excuse me for not writing more now.

Thanking you again for your favors to me,

Yours very truly,

Stella O'Connor.

CO-OPERATION.

There is a tendency on the part of some organizations to criticise the police department as a matter of course. However well deserved such criticism may be in other lines, it is only fair to say that in the matter of hunting down procurers, we have received very courteous treatment and very effective service from every commanding officer and patrolman with whom we have come in contact. Some of the best cases that have been brought into the courts are due to the vigilance of the men who are detailed from the various stations and who are constantly on the lookout for pandering cases.

The Juvenile Protective Association, The Bureau of Personal Service, The Catholic Woman's League, and The Traveller's Aid Society, have all referred cases to our office for investigation and we are anxious to serve them in all cases involving a violation of the pandering statute.

Miss Kate Jane Adams who maintains a home for girls at 2119 Calumet Ave. has rendered invaluable service by keeping the girls in a model home while the cases were pending for trial and the influence of her training is reflected in the demeanor of the girls when they come into court to testify.

TABULATION OF RESULTS.

Arrests and Convictions.

From May 1st, 1911, to May 1st, 1912.

Pandering:

Arrested	44
Convicted	31
Cases arising under Mann Act and turned over to Federal District Attorney's office	8

Attempted Pandering:

Arrested	1
Convicted	1

Contributing to Delinquency of Children:

Arrested	5
Convicted	5

Rape:

Convicted	2
Held to grand jury	3

Fornication:

Arrested	4
Convicted	4

Disorderly Conduct:

Arrested	24
Convicted	18

Abduction:

Arrested and Pending	2
Convicted	1

Harboring Girls Under Age:

Arrested	3
Convicted	1
Pending for Trial	2

SENTENCES.

Pandering:

One year in House of Correction and fined \$1,000	3
One year in County Jail and fined \$300..	1
One year in House of Correction and fined \$300	3
Nine months in County Jail and fined \$500	1
Six months in House of Correction and fined \$500	1
Six months in House of Correction and fined \$300	14
Six months in County Jail and fined \$300..	8

Attempted Pandering:

Four months in the County Jail..... 1

Contributing to Delinquency of Children:

One year in House of Correction and fined
\$200 1

90 days in House of Correction and fined
\$100 1

90 days in House of Correction and fined
\$100 1

Fined \$250 1

Fornication:

One year in House of Correction and fined
\$100 1

90 days in County Jail..... 3

Rape:

Fifteen years in Joliet Penitentiary..... 1

One year in Joliet Penitentiary..... 1

Abduction:

One year in Joliet Penitentiary..... 1

Harboring Girl Under Age:

One year in Joliet Penitentiary..... 1

Disorderly Conduct:

Fined \$200 2

Fined \$100 1

Fined \$50 8

Fined \$25 4

Fined \$10 3

Total amount of fines.....\$12,830

Costs 348

\$13,178

Total amount expended by Committee of Fif-
teen\$4,735.71

Total Jail Sentences, 41 years, four months.

Girls returned to their parents from disor-
derly houses47

Girls sent to Institutions.....13

Complaints and cases investigated in
which no Court action was taken, and
which are not enumerated above....212

COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN

CLIFFORD W. BARNES
CHAIRMAN

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Checks should be made payable to
A. H. BARBER, Treasurer,
1017 Fort Dearborn Bldg.

Information concerning cases is solicited
and may be sent to
CARL A. WALDRON, Attorney,
1017 Fort Dearborn Bldg.

HQ
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